

What is claimed is:

1. A sensor comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a pixel situated on a single level on the substrate;
  - and
  - an electronics circuit situated on the single level.
2. The sensor of claim 1, wherein the pixel has a fill factor greater than 69 percent.
3. The sensor of claim 2, wherein the pixel is an infrared light detector.
4. The sensor of claim 3, wherein the substrate has a pit proximate to the pixel.
5. The sensor of claim 4, wherein the pixel has at least one via in the one level supporting the pixel.
6. The sensor of claim 5, wherein the electronics circuit comprises a FET circuit.
7. The sensor of claim 5, wherein the electronics comprises a bipolar transistor circuit.
8. The sensor of claim 6, wherein the electronics circuit comprises at least one small area FET.
9. The sensor of claim 8, wherein the electronics is CMOS circuitry.

10. The sensor of claim 9, wherein the pixel is a microbolometer.
11. A thermal sensor comprising:
  - a substrate; and
  - an array of pixels situated on the substrate; and
  - wherein:
    - each pixel is located on a single level;
    - an electronic circuit is associated with each pixel;
    - and
    - each electronic circuit is located on the single level with the pixel.
12. The sensor of claim 11, wherein each pixel is an infrared light detector.
13. The sensor of claim 12, wherein each pixel is suspended over a pit in the substrate.
14. The sensor of claim 13, wherein each electronic circuit is CMOS FET circuitry.
15. The sensor of claim 14, wherein each pixel is a microbolometer.
16. A sensing means comprising:
  - means for sensing infrared light;

means for electronically processing signals related to infrared light sensed by the means for sensing infrared light; and

means for supporting on one level the means for sensing infrared light and the means for electronically processing signals.

17. The means of claim 16, wherein the means for supporting on one level supports the means for sensing infrared light over a thermal isolating opening.

18. The means of claim 17, wherein the means for electronically processing signals has an area that is a fraction of the area of the means for sensing infrared light.

19. The means of claim 18, wherein the means for sensing infrared light is an array of pixels.

20. The means of claim 19, wherein:  
each pixel of the array of pixels is a microbolometer pixel comprising  $VO_x$ ; and  
the means for electronically processing signals is small area transistor circuitry.

21. The means of claim 20, wherein the small area transistor circuitry is CMOS FET circuitry.

22. The means of claim 21, wherein:

the means for supporting on one level is a planar level substrate; and  
the thermal isolating opening is a pit in the substrate under each pixel of the array of pixels.

23. A sensor comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a pixel situated in a first plane relative to a surface of the substrate; and
  - an electronics circuit situated in the first plane.
24. A thermal sensor comprising:
  - a substrate; and
  - an array of pixels situated on the substrate; and
  - wherein:
    - each pixel is located on a first surface;
    - an electronic circuit is associated with each pixel;
    - and
    - each electronic circuit is located on the first surface proximate to the pixel.
25. A thermal sensor comprising:
  - a substrate; and
  - an array of pixels situated on the substrate; and
  - wherein:
    - an electronic circuit is associated with each pixel;
    - and

each electronic circuit is situated horizontally proximate to the pixel.

26. A thermal sensor comprising:  
a substrate; and  
an array of pixels situated on the substrate; and  
electronics situated on the substrate horizontally proximate to the array of pixels.
27. A sensing means comprising:  
means for sensing infrared light;  
means for electronically processing signals related to infrared light sensed by the means for sensing infrared light; and  
means for supporting on one surface the means for sensing infrared light and the means for electronically processing signals.
28. A sensing means comprising:  
means for sensing infrared light;  
means for electronically processing signals related to infrared light sensed by the means for sensing infrared light; and  
means for supporting the means for sensing infrared light and the means for electronically processing signals horizontally proximate to each other.
29. A sensing means comprising:  
means for sensing infrared light;

means for electronically processing signals related to  
infrared light sensed by the means for sensing  
infrared light; and  
means for supporting in a plane the means for sensing  
infrared light and the means for electronically  
processing signals.